

Prairie Island tribe in Welch, Minn.), and the Turtle Lake Casino (operated by the St. Croix Chippewa tribe), all created debilitating competition for the Hudson dog track.²⁸ Furthermore, the track's building costs had been greater than that of other tracks, and its delayed opening had deprived it of a year or more of operation prior to the emergence of Indian casinos. Financial losses for the Hudson dog track mounted from opening day, eventually reaching up to \$7 million a year.

3. The Hudson Dog Track Owners First Attempted to Establish An Indian Casino by Seeking a Partnership with the St. Croix Tribe in 1992

In an effort to make the Hudson dog track profitable, Fred Havenick began discussions in June 1992 with the St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians about forming a partnership to develop a casino at the track.²⁹ Under the proposed partnership, the St. Croix Tribe would purchase the track and then seek to have the track taken into trust so that the tribe could operate a casino on the premises. The discussions involved both the tribe and its non-Indian casino management group, the Buffalo Brothers. On Aug. 12, 1992, Havenick and the tribe announced their intention to form a partnership.³⁰

In reaction to this announcement, the City of Hudson held a meeting of its Common Council on Aug. 17, at which citizens expressed their views on the casino proposal. At the end of the meeting, the Common Council passed a resolution opposing the casino proposal. The

²⁸The location of each of the tribes is indicated on the Map.

²⁹Prior to contacting the St. Croix Chippewa tribe, Havenick had unsuccessfully approached the Wisconsin state legislature about allowing slot machines at the track.

³⁰The St. Croix had previously explored opportunities to establish off-reservation casinos in more lucrative urban markets such as the convention center in Spooner, Wis.